Welcome to worship at New Hanover Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent March 27, 2022



The word "prodigal" is commonly used to describe the son who squanders his inheritance. Yet, this parable invites us to consider how God's grace is also prodigal—extravagant, lavish, illogical. This parable disrupts and expands our definitions of grace. Once again, grace is not earned. After wasting his resources, the younger sonbecomes destitute and returns home to his father, saying, "I am no longer worthy" (Luke 15:21). In response, his father welcomes him with a celebration and the fatted calf. The older son, in contrast, has done everything "right"—he's tried to perform, work hard, check all the boxes—but he forgets how to celebrate. How might you receive and extend prodigal grace?

The Rev. Scott Staub, pastor Patricia Nyce, director of music ministry

We love our neighbors with healing and feeding them!

All worship can be viewed online at newhanoverlutheran.org, facebook.com/NewHanoverLutheranChurch and on YouTube.

May your worship experience strengthen you with God's love and grace.

Welcome

Prelude

Get Down

Nicole Ewing, Lindsey Waltermyer and Donna Kehs

Lavishly our lives are wasted Humbleness is left untasted You can't live your life To please yourself That's a tip from my mistake Exactly what it doesn't take To win you've gotta come In last place

Pre-Chorus

To live your life you've got to lose it and all the losers get a crown

Chorus

I get down He lifts me up *(repeat 2 times)* I get down

All I need's another day
Where I can't seem to get away
From the many things
That drag me down
I'm sure you've had a day like me
When nothin' seems to set you free
From burdens you can't carry all alone yeah

Pre-Chorus

In your weakness He is stronger

In your darkness He shines through When you're cryin' He's your comfort When you're all alone He's carryin' you

Chorus

I get down He lifts me up
I get down He lifts me up
I get down He lifts me up
I get down
I get down
I get down He lifts me up
I get down He lifts me up
I get down He lifts me up
Ev'ry time I'm down
The Lord lifts me up

This valley is so deep I can barely see the sun I cry out for mercy Lord And You lift me up again

I get down I get down I get down I get down

"Get Down" Words and music by Ben Cissell | Bob Herdman | Mark Stuart | Tyler Burkum | Will McGinniss. © 1999 Flicker USA Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing; Up In The Mix Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing). All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under CCLI License #2329082.

Call to Worship

"Even now, declares the Lord, return to me with all your heart."

(Joel 2:12)

Roll up your sleeves.

Let down your guard.

Come in from the storm.

Make yourself at home.

Pull up to the table.

Release the tension in your jaw. Take a deep breath.

Return to God with all your heart.

May it be so.

Gathering Hymn Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

ELW #807

First Reading What Doesn't Play by the Rules

I come into the room calculating what I've done, as if hurt could be measured, as if there was a score system, as if we could say what I owe in return.

I come into the room ready to apologize, ready to make amends, ready to tell you all the things I'll do to make it better, but you put your arms around me.

Grace is the ocean that softens the edges. Grace is rain in the desert—you're not sure whether to laugh, cry, or dance. Grace is a miracle, all by itself. In a scorekeeping world, grace doesn't play by the rules.

I come into the room calculating what I've done. You say there's grace here. It feels like a miracle. I don't know whether to laugh, cry, or dance.

Gospel Anthem God So Loved the World Chancel Choir Nancy Mest, flute

"God So Loved the World" by Thomas Keesecker. ©2009 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Streamed with permission under One License #4-701229.

Gospel Reading Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ^{11b} There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to

feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeved your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Message

Song of the Day Trading My Sorrows Nicole Ewing, Lindsey Waltermyer and Donna Kehs

I'm trading my sorrows
I'm trading my shame
I'm laying them down
For the joy of the Lord
I'm trading my sickness
I'm trading my pain
I'm laying them down
For the joy of the Lord

Yes Lord yes Lord yes yes Lord amen

I am pressed but not crushed
Persecuted not abandoned
Struck down but not destroyed
I am blessed beyond the curse
For His promise will endure
That His joy's gonna be my strength
Though the sorrow may last for the night
His joy comes with the morning

Lai lai

Blessing of the Hand Bells (The history of these hand bells and their sponsors is in your bulletins.)

Introduction

Blessing

Dear friends: Today we give thanks to God and we seek God's blessing as we set apart these hand bells for the glory and praise of God.

Sing with joy to God our strength and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.

[&]quot;Trading My Sorrows" words and music by Darrell Evans. © 1998 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (Admin. by Integrity Music). All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under CCLI License #2329082.

Praise God with tambourine and dance; praise God with strings and pipe.

We give you thanks, O God, creator of the universe, for your abundant gifts. The whole earth reflects your glory; all your creatures praise you. We lift our voices to join the sounds and song of heaven and earth, of things seen and unseen, in praise of your glory. You alone do great wonders, and by your wisdom you made the heavens and the earth. You have breathed your breath of mercy into your children, to hear from them a joyful shout with their own song. In the fullness of time, O God, you sang your new song, our Lord Jesus Christ, who is exalted by poets, musicians, and all your saints. Your Spirit is the breath of our music and song. Send your blessing upon us and upon these hand bells, which we dedicate to your praise and glory. Enrich the lives of your people through it, and grant us faith to hear your gracious purpose in it. By your Holy Spirit, let these hand bells enliven the proclamation of your word to the building up of your church, to the glory of your name, and to the good of all your people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord God, before whose throne trumpets sound, and saints and angels sing the songs of Moses and the Lamb: accept these hand bells for the worship of your church, that with the voice of music we may proclaim your praise and tell it abroad; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Handbell Choir Anthem Here I Am, Lord

D. L. Schutte/arr. B. Ingram

"Here I Am, Lord" by D. L. Schutte. Arrangement by B. Ingram. © 1981 OCP. Published by OCP. All rights reserved. Reprinted and Streamed under OneLicense.net #4-701229.

Prayers for Creation, the World and Our Community

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

Announcements

Sending Hymn What Wondrous Love Is This ELW #666

Choral Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and grant you peace.

And grant you peace. Amen.

Sending

Go in peace, and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Go get'em.

Postlude To God Be the Glory Lloyd Larson

Graphic Design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | Original photography by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | Prayers and poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23853. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Announcements

Sound and video assistants needed for worship broadcast and live stream video. Training will be provided. For more information or to sign up, contact Pastor Scott at pastor@newhanoverlutheran.org or (610) 326-1335 ext. 1.

Sponsors are needed. Suggested donation for the bulletin is \$20 and flowers is \$35. Or, sponsor the *Word in Season* for \$35 a month. Contact Church Office Manager Susan Gutshall at (610) 326-1335 for available dates and to sign up.

Today

The bulletin and flowers are presented to the glory of God and in memory of Robert and Stella Eidle by the children.

Serving Today Head Usher: Barbara Repa; Ushers: Brian Flack and Bill Allen; Children's Sermon: Lindsey Waltermyer

Next week Head Usher: Marty Hauser; Ushers: Bryce

Manthorne and Rick Solazzo; Children's Sermon: Hayley Quigley

Calendar

Worship Service – Today, 9:00 AM in the sanctuary and online Food Drop Off – Today, 9:00 – 10:00 AM, kitchen Food Delivery Pickup – Today, 10:00 AM, Sunday School door Sunday School – Today, 10:15 AM, room 1 (fellowship hall) Peer Support – Monday, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, room 32 Cub Scouts – Monday, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, rooms 1, 21-31, 33, 37 Mission Service – Monday, 7:00 PM, room 4 Boy Scouts – Tuesday, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, rooms 1, 25-27, 30, 31 Food Drop Off – Wednesday, 1:00 – 2:00 PM, kitchen Food Delivery Pickup – Wednesday, 2:00 PM, Sunday School door

Lenten Dinner – Wednesday, 6:00 – 6:45 PM, room 1 **12 Step** – Wednesday, 6:00 – 7:00 PM, room 32 **Lenten Devotions** – 6:45 – 7:15 PM, room 1 **Choir Rehearsal** – Wednesday, 7:15 – 8:30 PM, room 15 **Thursday at Ten** – Thursday, 10:00 – 11:30 AM, room 33 **Bell Choir** – Thursday, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, room 15

Garden Planting – Saturday, 9:00 AM – Noon
Scout Hoagie Sale – Saturday, 9:00 AM – Noon, room 1
Worship Service – Next Sunday, 9:00 AM in the sanctuary and online

Food Drop Off – Next Sunday, 9:00 – 10:00 AM, kitchen Food Delivery Pickup – Next Sunday, 10:00 AM, Sunday School Wing door

Sunday School – Next Sunday, 10:15 AM – 11:15 AM, room 1 (fellowship hall)

Upcoming Events

Easter Egg Hunt and Garden of Hope Open House on Saturday, April 9th, at 10:30 AM. The annual Easter Egg Hunt will include age level egg hunts. Each group will read an Easter themed story. At 11:15, participants will enjoy hotdogs, snacks and drinks for lunch. While you are at church, check out the 2022 Garden of Hope and get some information on how you can lend a hand. We hope to have some seeds available for planting that morning. A few volunteers are needed to help out on April 9th with the various age groups and to read a story. Contact Nikki Young if you are interested in helping.

Easter Lily orders are due today. Order lilies to help decorate the sanctuary on Easter. Suggested donation is \$9 per plant. Order forms are located on the desk in the welcome center. Complete a form and along with payment, place in the offering plate.

Spring Garden Planting on Saturday, April 2nd, 9 AM to noon. Come join our expert Organic gardeners from Trellis 4 Tomorrow as we plant some special produce this year. Come ready to learn about planting techniques, good garden practices and sustainable gardening, as well as bring your questions to stump the gardener. Bring gloves and garden spades and planting knives if you have them. Snacks, fun and beverages are provided as well.

Synod Wide Day of Serving is on Saturday, April 23rd, 9 AM - 1 PM. Come join us and over 150 churches invited to work in our Garden of Hope, cemetery and picnic grove. We will be working on tombstone restoration, garden projects, harvesting, and sprucing up our picnic grove. Our ELCA brothers and sisters have selected

us to be a work site for Lutherans and all to join together in helping and loving our neighbors. Come join the fun, food of course, and fellowship. Bring gloves if you have them.

Donations will help local families Throughout the month of March, NHELC is collecting non-perishable items for distribution to local families through the Boyertown Area Multi-Service. Top ten items needed to help fill the shelves include the following. Food: Kids snacks, Cereal, Pancake syrup, Instant oatmeal, Canned tomatoes, Crackers, Applesauce, Canned tuna, Pasta or rice and Boxed baking mixes. Non-Food: Paper towels, Paper bowls (disposable), Feminine hygiene pads, Deodorant, Laundry detergent, Shampoo, Conditioner, Tissues, Bar soap and Dog food/cat food.

Also, sugar-free, sodium-free and low-fat items for those with dietary restrictions are greatly appreciated. Please do not bring items with an expiration date already expired, home-canned items or medicines. These items cannot be accepted. Items may be dropped off at the church. Collection boxes are located in the welcome center and multi-purpose room. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

Prayer Warriors Wanted Pray, pray, and pray some more! You are invited to come pray with us! Yes, we have a prayer chain, but we are adding another prayer ministry. All are welcome to gather together each Monday at 1:15 PM in the sanctuary to pray. We'll have a brief devotion and pray together. We'll give thanks and then lift up in prayers our neighbors both near and far. As Jesus told us, "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." See Donna Kehs or Marsha Staub if you have any questions.

VBS 2022 will be June $20^{th} - 24^{th}$ and this year we are returning to daytime VBS. We understand daytime is difficult for some that work and this year we are going to offer an extended afternoon for 20 kids to stay and play in the afternoon if parents are unable to pick up around noon. But this means we need a lot of volunteers for this year. Also, folks are needed to help plan for VBS and to help decorate. Jobs are available for ALL ages and abilities. We

need key area volunteers and group leaders (shepherds) for during the morning. In the afternoon we need some folks that will have fun with the kids, helping with an afternoon craft or snack. Do you have a special talent that you might want to share? Let us know! Are you willing to hang out with some kids for an afternoon? Let us know. If VBS is something you want to hear more about, contact Nikki ASAP in the church office or at nikki.young@newhanoverlutheran.org. By the way – youth helpers are very welcome!

Food Ministry

More than 70,000 meals have been delivered! NHELC's Loaves & Fishes Food Ministry is changing lives. And, you can be a part of the team. 1) You can donate food. Drop off your donation on Wednesdays between 1 – 2 PM and Sundays between 9 – 10 AM. Items most needed include: hamburger, chicken (thighs and breast meat), pasta (ziti, elbows, bowties), cheese (mozzarella, cheddar, parmesan), potatoes, fresh fruit (apples, oranges, bananas) and eggs. 2) Donate money through Thrivent Gift Cards, place monetary donation in the offering plate or mail to the church.

3) Deliver meals. Sign up at https://www.newhanoverlutheran.org/loaves-fishes-food-ministry/.

We need help! NHELC Loaves & Fishes is feeding the homeless and those in need every month on the second Tuesday. If you can put a piece of food onto a plate, or serve a plate, or greet someone, or help sing a hymn or two, we could use your help. Meals are served at 5:30 PM at Emmanuel Lutheran Church located in Pottstown. You can sign up to help at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0f48adaf28a5f58-nhelc.

Spiritual Renewal

Copies of the *Word in Season* daily devotion books April - June are now available in the welcome center. Be sure to pick up a copy of this daily scripture and brief message. By designating just a few minutes a day to read and ponder this devotional, you can enrich and inspire your life. *Word in Season* is sponsored to the

glory of God and in honor of her church family by Lucille A. Powell.

Do you know someone who could use a **prayer shawl** to help bring comfort, healing and good thoughts? If so, contact Deacon Carol or Pastor Scott and we'll see that one is made available. And we are always looking for more knitters!

Faith Formation

"Thursdays At Ten" Feeling a little worn-out, anxious, stressed with all that is impacting your daily life? Just need to take a break and rest from all of it? Then join us for "And I Will Give You Rest" where we will take time for ourselves, to be present to the Spirit, and learn how to relax through mindfulness exercises, meditation and other creative ways to just "be still." And to better hear God's voice amidst the noise of the world. You'll find us in room 33 from 10-11:30 AM on Thursdays. Questions? Just contact Deacon Carol!

Didn't get a chance to fill out a Seniors Ministry Survey Form? There are extra copies in the welcome center. They can be returned to the marked black tray in the welcome center. Or, contact Deacon Carol at carol.detweiler@newhanoverlutheran.org or call the church office and we'll send you one!

Need a prayer lifted up? The NHELC Prayer Chain Ministry is here for you. If you need a prayer, know someone else who could use one, or just want someone to pray about peace and healing for our communities, nation and world, we will lift those prayers up! All information will be kept confidential. To request a prayer, contact Deacon Carol at carol.detweiler@newhanoverlutheran.org or call the church office (610-326-1335), leave her a voice mail and she will pass it on to the prayer group. Also, you can contact Deacon Carol to update circumstances or have a name removed from the Prayer Chain. Your prayers will be "delivered"! If you feel it's time to take a person off the prayer chain, contact Deacon Carol at carol.detweiler@newhanoverlutheran.org or leave a message at the church office and we'll update our list. But if the person still needs prayers, we'll gladly continue praying.

"Seniors Serving Others" A Seniors Ministry program where seniors become "God's Hands" There are a couple of service projects coming up for which we can use some help, including finishing up sun catchers to be hung in skilled care units of nursing homes and making new Chrismons for our Christmas trees. There are other projects being lined up as well. Details will be out soon! Keep an eye on our bulletin announcements for updates on this and other Seniors ministries.

Full to the Brim - An Expansive Lent

Full to the Brim doesn't ignore or deny sin and suffering. It doesn't absolve accountability for wrongdoing. Instead it contextualizes our faith. If love is our beginning, how can we live our lives led by love's promises? It reminds us to live fully—as we pursue justice and hope, or express grief and gratitude. And so, this Lent, let us trust—fully—that we belong to God. Let us increase our capacity to receive and give grace. Let us discover the expansive life God dreams for us. Come join us for a truly expansive experience as we dig deeper into our faith and dream.

- Sunday Worship at 9 AM
- Wednesday Lenten Dinners from 6 − 6:45 PM with Worship Devotions following from 6:45 − 7:15 PM

"Now to the God who can do so many *awe-inspiring things*, *immeasurable things*, things greater than we ever could ask or imagine through the power at work in us.... --" Eph 3:20

Cemetery News

Do you like to mow grass? The cemetery committee is accepting applications for two mowers/cemetery caretakers for the 2022 mowing season. Applicants must be at least 16 years old (or 14 or 15 with working papers) and able to operate a riding tractor and gas trimmer. To apply or for more information, contact Bill Bauer at (610) 367-9869 or Norm Hunsberger at (484) 431-3622.

The cost of NHELC Cemetery lots is going up! Currently, the cost is \$500 per lot. After April 15th, the cost will increase to \$750 per lot.

Remember in your prayers

Requests

Toni Rath, Katy Mahon-Miller, Matt Hall, Luann Hanley, Scot Smale, Carol Estes, William Trotter, Kathy Kane, Phil Underkoffler, Maxwell Girard, Pat Fryer, Carol Buchholtz Yost, Enoc Zapien, Jean Renninger, Barbara Morris, Kathy Campos, Pr. Susan Lynch, Richard Norris, Pr. Kork Moyer, Betty Lou Shadle, Julia Hauck, Tony Mancini, Raul Castro, Amy LeVan, Jeffrey Kunsch, Mary Ellen Jonczyk, Hannah Phillips, Braydon Kline, Edwin Sugita, Wilma Lahr, Robert Tadley, Jim Price, Melissa, Bernadette Phillips, Mary Lou, Doug Weaver, Joan Wagner, Jaden Mahlbauer, Robert Ganovsky, Mary Alice Mack, Dorothy Bingaman, Emily Ocelus, Gates family, Eric and Wendy Hess, Sue Care, Josh Young, Herman Richard, Deb Matthews, Marceline, Brendan Avvento, Anne Eshleman, Daniel Johnson, Gwen Grant, Chris Fatzinger, Hank Droneberg, Pena family, Kim Frain, Ken Jacob, Jen Perez, Frank D., Pam Helfrich, Barb and Tom Faust, Andy Van Dyke, Janet, Tom Swanson, Tricia Hoak family, Carly, Marilyn Varnum, Jerry Dotterer, Feryl Stein, Laurie Scoggins, Pam Abbott, Holli Muffler, Louise Karns

Peace for the violence in our area and nationally

Long-term

Garrett Coyne, Heather James, Rachel Walter, Sarah Bowman, Keeley Staples, Logan Conley, Shannon, John, Dominic Strock, Sally Kohl, Tina Farrell

Shut-in

Penny Frymoyer

Military

Shawn Dietz, Michael McHugh, Kevin Dugan, Jason Bernhard, Craig Geiser, Patrick Mathias, Steven Kane, William Zearfoss, Will Wilson V, Milton Jack Repa, Megan Fricker, Kyle Woods

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 3 PM Call for an appointment. (610) 326-1335

Contact Information Pastor, The Rev. Scott Staub pastor@newhanoverlutheran.org

Director of Children, Family & Youth Ministry, Nikki Young nikki.young@newhanoverlutheran.org

Church Office Manager, Susan Gutshall susan.gutshall@newhanoverlutheran.org

Director of Music Ministry, Patricia Nyce patricia.nyce@newhanoverlutheran.org

Food Ministry Director

Cfatzinger@chris-cooks.com

Director of Senior Faith Formation, Deacon Carol N. Detweiler carol.detweiler@newhanoverlutheran.org

Bell Choir Director, Barbara Eisenhart eisenbarb@aol.com

Bookkeeper, Joan Comtois nhelcbookkeeper@comcast.net Cemetery

Bill Bauer, rwbauer7@gmail.com Norm Hunsberger, namron29@comcast.net

Handbell Dedication

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Psalm 100: 1-2 NIV

The handbells were acquired with contributions from the Memorial Fund given in memory of Megan Weaver. The bells purchased are large bells in the lower fourth and fifth octaves. They serve to add more bass sound to counterbalance the sound of the very high bells already in use by the choir. We thank Megan's parents, Douglas and Helen Weaver, for allowing their daughter's memorial gifts to be used to purchase these handbells. These and all handbells and handchimes will be used to ring praises to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Also dedicated today are two new handbell tables, foam, and table covers. Thrivent Action Dollars provided the means to purchase the items. Monique Becker donated her time to make the table covers. Undesignated Memorial Fund gifts were used to cover a small remaining balance of the cost. Growth in the Handbell Choir necessitated the need for the additional bells and items to be purchased. It is with appreciation to the Weaver family, Thrivent Financial, and the Memorial Fund that these monies could be used to support the Handbell Choir music ministry.

Handbell Choir Director Barbara Eisenhart

gend

Sharing a meal

In Jesus' story, the	on	\rightarrow	one	
father had a big party	get	\rightarrow	gate	
to celebrate his son's	go	\rightarrow	got	
return. What is some-				
thing we can do to	AND			
remember Jesus' love				
for us? To find the	an	\rightarrow	and	
answer, write the letter	at	\rightarrow	rat	
that is added to the	ran	\rightarrow	rain	
second word in each	sad	\rightarrow	sand	
blank. Then read the	thin	\rightarrow	think	
answer.				



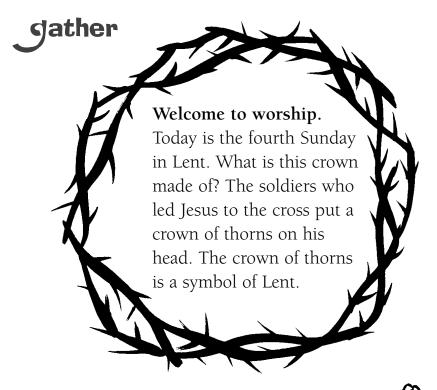


Dear God, thank you for the meals we share. Amen

This week

Help your family prepare a special meal to celebrate God's love and forgiveness.







Thorns protect the beauty of the rose, the sweet juice of the pineapple, and the water of the cactus.

Crowns of thorns can remind you that sadness comes before the joy of Easter.



Look for something rough or scratchy in your worship space.

hear & celebrate

A father forgives his son

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 Jesus told this story:

A man had two sons. The younger son asked his father to give him his half of the family's money. Then the younger son traveled to a faraway land, where he spent all of his money. He had to live with pigs on a pig farm. The younger son knew he would have a better life if he returned home, so he finally headed home.

When the father saw his younger son, he was happy and hugged him. The father had a big party. The older son was angry, though. He worked hard for his father, but his father never had a party for him. The father said to his older son, "Son, you are always with me. But we're having a party because your brother was lost and has been found."

Draw plenty of food for the party.



Eating and drinking

In the story Jesus told, the father had a big party because his younger son came home. We celebrate God's love and forgiveness for us by eating and drinking, too. This meal is called Holy Communion or the Lord's Supper or the eucharist (YOU-car-ist). Everyone has a place at God's table.

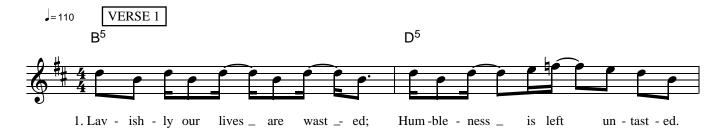
Draw the altar in your worship space.

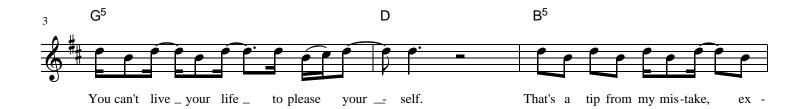
Draw bread and wine on top of it.



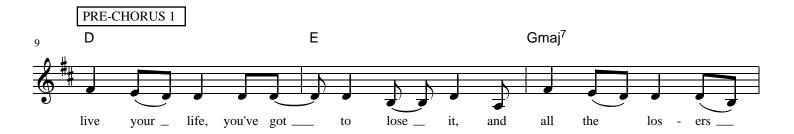
Get Down

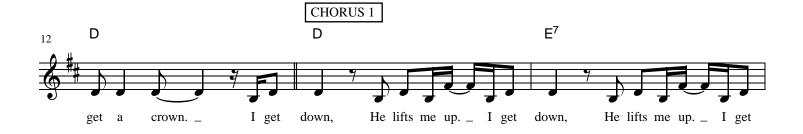
Words and Music by Tyler Burkum, Ben Cissell, Bob Herdman, Will McGinniss and Mark Stuart





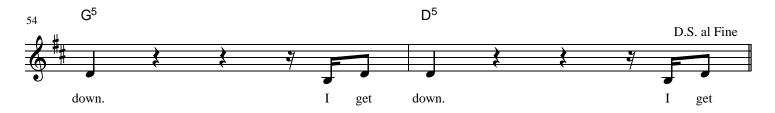












Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



- 1 Come, thou Fount of ev 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
- 2 Here I raise my Eb en e zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt-or dai-ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise. and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home. let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love, Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God; Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove. he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood. Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt. Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813. Text and music are in public domain.

Trading My Sorrows

Words and Music by Darrell Evans







Lai,

What Wondrous Love Is This



- 1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
- 2 When I was sink ing down, sink ing down, sink ing down, when
- 3 God and the Lamb I will will sing; To to sing, I to I'll sing when from death I'm free, And on, I'll sing on; and

won - drous love this, O my soul! What won-drous love is is sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down God the Lamb will sing; God and and to I to to the Lamb, when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my great I the Aм, while mil - lions join the theme, I will who is through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing I'll sing God's love for me, and



"What Wondrous Love Is This: Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt. Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835. Text and music are in public domain. Arrangement © 1955 Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted and Streamed under OneLicense.net #A-701229.